

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 00850 181753Z

42

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 346

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 0850

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FEBRUARY 18. FOR IOP/M. TODAY'S MORNING PAPERS LA PRENSA GRAFICA AND EL DIARIO DE HOY GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO UPI AND AP WIRE SERVICE STORIES CONCERNING SECRETARY OF STATE'S SPEECH IN CARACAS TUESDAY 17. EL DIARIO DE HOY FRONT-PAGED AN AP NEWS ITEM UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE U.S. WILL NOT TOLERATE ANOTHER AGGRESSION FROM CUBA: KISSINGER." THE STORY QUOTED MR. KISSINGER AS SAYING THAT HIS VIEWS ON THIS PROBLEM (CUBA'S EXPORTATION OF ITS REVOLUTION) WERE APPARENTLY SHARED BY THE LEADERS OF VENEZUELA. IT CITED MR. KISSINGER AS EXPRESSING TO PRESIDENT PEREZ HIS HOPE THAT U.S. CONGRESS WOULD CHANGE ITS MIND ABOUT EXCLUDING VENEZUELA FROM GSP. THE PAPER ALSO CARRIED AN AP STORY HEADED "KISSINGER SPEAKS IN CARACAS ABOUT A 'NEW ERA' WITH LATIN AMERICA". THE STORY QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM MR KISSINGER'S SPEECH AND ESPECIALLY REFERRED TO HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE U.S. WOULD START A NEW ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROGRAM TO OPEN A NEW ERA IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA. IN ANOTHER RELATED STORY, THE PAPER CARRIED AN UPI ITEM INFORMING OF DISORDERS IN CARACAS STAGED TO PROTEST MR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA. LA PRENSA GRAFICA CARRIED THE SAME INTERIOR PAGE AP STORY HEADED "KISSINGER ANNOUNCES NEW PLAN FOR LATIN AMERICA." IT ALSO PICKED-UP A LATIN NEWS ITEM HEADED "IT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED KISSINGER WILL NOT MEET WITH THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE." THE UNCLASSIFIED

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STORY SAID THE MEETING WOULD PROBABLY NOT TAKE PLACE BECAUSE

THE PRESIDENTS OF GUATEMALA AND EL SALVADOR COULD NOT BE PRESENT,
AND THAT THE PRESIDENT OF HONDURAS "HAD LOST INTEREST" IN THE
INTERVIEW WHEN HE BECAME AWARE OF THE DECISION ADOPTED BY EL
SALVADOR AND HONDURAS."
GRIFFITHS

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